(a) whether it is a fact that Jammu/ Srinagar branches of the NCCF had purchased large quantity of rice and wheat worth over Rs. 1 crore in 1983-84 directly through a fraudulent deal with a private party without any tenders and quotations;

(b) whether the purchases were approved by the Competent Authority;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted into this deal;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) who are the officers involved in this scandal and what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L BHAGAT): (a) to (e) NCCF has informed that in September 1983, Jammu & Kashmir Government placed an order with Srinagar Branch of NCCF to supply 2500 MTs. of IR-8 Rice and 10,000 MTs. of wheat. NCCF obtained offers from five parties and finalised the deal of purchase of rice and wheat with the firm quoting the lowest rates. Srinagar branch of NCCF had purchased 2496 85 MTs. of rice at a total cost of Rs 82 40 lakhs and 284 5 MTs. of wheat at Rs 5.52 lakhs for supply to Jammu & Kashmir Government. The matter has been referred to the CBI for further investigation.

Salary and Allowances of Agricultural Scientists

*509. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Members of Parliament have written to Government for an increase in the salary and allowances of Agricultural Scientists; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

T.V./Radio facilities to MPs/MLAs

*510. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to allow the MLAs and MPs to explain the problems of their constituencies through T.V. and Radio; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Adequate publicity is being provided by All India Radio and Doordarshan of the visits of Central and state Ministers to review progress of various developmental schemes and drought and flood relief measures in their news bulletins "A Peoples Forum" programme has also been introduced in which public grievances and administrative response to alleviate them are duly highlighted.

Activities of SAARC in prohibition and drug abuse Control

*511 DR BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 461 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th August, 1987 and state:

(a) whether a grant of Rs 243.200 was sanctioned to the Society for

Promotion of Area Resources Centres, 52 Miami Apartment, Bhulabhai Desai Road, Bombay, during 1985-86 for prohibition and drug abuse control;

(b) if so what were the activities of this organisation in prohibition and drug abuse control during 1985-86; and

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The organisation was engaged *inter alia* in field studies under the survey project which requires to cover 8 cities and prepare profiles of drug dependents and study, the progress of counselling, treatment, prevention and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

(c) The survey project not having been completed yet, no assessment has been made so far.

Benefits to Rural People under the IRDP Scheme

*512. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what real benefits have accrued to the poor rural people under the IRDP scheme in the last three years;

(b) whether the subsidy under the Scheme (IRDP) is being properly utilised; and

(c) whether a portion of the benefits which would have accrued to the IRDP beneficiaries is going to the middlemen, viz. suppliers of assets appointed by the Rural Development Agencies, if so, whether Government propose to disburse cash to the IRDP beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) to (c) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in 1985-86, 1986-87 and till October in 1987-88, 30.61 lakh, 37.47 lakh and 15.29 lakh families respectively have been assisted.

The Concurrent Evaluation Report of IRDP for the period October, 1985 to September, 1986 shows that the assets generated incremental income of more than Rs. 2000 in 26 per cent cases. Such increase was between Rs. 1001 and Rs. 2000 in about 24 per cent cases and between Rs. 501 and Rs. 1000 in about 15 per cent cases. The additional income generated was up to Rs. 500 in about 11 per cent cases.

By and large, the subsidy under IRDP is being properly utilised. This is the inference drawn from the Concurrent Evaluation. The incremental income derived by the families from the assets have already been indicated above. The Concurrent Evaluation also indicates that in about 71 per cent cases of old beneficiaries the assets were found intact. Among the remaining cases, the assets were not intact due to a variety of reasons which include unexpected events like illness, deaths, relatively lower income generation by asset, defective condition of asset etc.

In order to ensure that benefits are not usurped by the middlemen, Purchase Committees are set up, comprising of the beneficiary, a representative each of the Agency, the financing institution and the concerned Department. Further, the assets are marked or branded to check the misutilisation or transfer of the assets.

Moreover, since 1.4.1986 the Government, as recommended by a study Group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has introduced a system of cash disbursement of subsidy and loan in 22 selected blocks in the country on an experimental basis. Since the scheme is yet to stabilise in